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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [redacted]

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1. In February 1950, KIM Il-sŏng received a directive from the USSR advising him to change the street names of North Korean cities to conform with the Soviet name system. The North Korean government issued an order in March to all government organs that the streets of Pyongyang were to be renamed in conformity with the Soviet style by 1 April 1950. Since the original USSR directive also had requested a general change of Korean names to the Soviet forms, a study of Soviet words was being undertaken.

2. The Pyongyang Railroad Hotel has been turned over to the Soviets, who have renamed it the International Hotel. It is used for meetings and social gatherings which include North Korean government officials, members of the North Korean Labor Party staff, Soviets, and other foreigners. Foreigners doing business with the Korean Commercial Company or with the Churin (Tchurin) Company are also quartered at the International Hotel.

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